

Experimental Sites Partner:

Although we identified November 1, 2003 as the annual report due date in the Summer 2003 Examiner, we find we must make a change. We will be changing the deadline for returning the completed 2002-03 report templates from November 1, 2003 to **February 13, 2004**. We are doing this, not only in response to a few concerns raised that the November 1 deadline did not allow enough time for schools to adequately complete the improved 2002-03 report templates, but more importantly because we need more time to complete our work on improving the report templates.

The improved report template is part of our continuing attempt to make the report process a clear and accessible one. We are currently working on: revising the wording of those report questions which schools had stated were unclear; insuring that our data dictionary clearly explains the report templates, and we are in the process of improving the reporting system (web-based or improved Excel spreadsheets). All of these projects are an attempt to respond to suggestions made by you.

Based on our recent work with a few of your colleagues, please find below the summary of proposed changes for each of the worksheets for your 2002-03 annual report. Please note that not all experiments require a "new" data element, just clarification in the wording of the query or goal.

Demographic Worksheet - PLUS loans will be excluded from the characterization and analysis, the questions will be ordered programmatically, and the "most recent default rate" will be the 2001 CDR.

Loan Proration Experiment - Students with non-prorated and prorated loans will be subset for those graduating with two-year degrees and those graduating with four-year degrees.

Overaward Tolerance Experiment - Goal of the experiment is restated to draw a parallel with overaward tolerance in the campus-based aid program. Overaward gradations are eliminated.

Loan Fees in COA Experiment - No changes, except for a slight change in the statement of the goal of the experiment and the proviso not to consider PLUS loans.

Credit Title IV Aid to Institutional (Non-allowable) Charges Experiment - Clarification in the stated goal of the experiment; addition of inquiry into the predominant method of informing students concerning the credit of aid to otherwise non-allowable institutional charges; removal of questions redundant with those on the demographic worksheet.

Credit Title IV Aid to Prior Award Year Charges Experiment - For clarity's sake, "Prior Year" replaces "Prior Term"; addition of inquiry into the predominant method of informing students concerning the credit of aid to prior award year charges; removal of questions redundant with those on the demographic worksheet.

Multiple Disbursement Experiment - "Persistence and withdrawal (official and unofficial) patterns" substituted for "enrollment and withdrawal patterns" in stated goal of the experiment; sequence and wording of questions altered.

Thirty-Day Delay Experiment - For the purpose of comparison, adding questions addressing the occurrence and timing of withdrawal for all freshmen. Adding question concerning impressions of the effect of participation on short-term, emergency loan issuance.

Entrance Loan Counseling Experiment - Goal of experiment re-worded to emphasize education of borrower rights and responsibilities; target group limited to the fall of 2002. Additional questions added concerning whether entrance counseling is conducted and, if so, the medium used to conduct it.

Exit Loan Counseling Experiment - Goal of experiment and target population definition slightly reworded. Yes/No question added regarding whether the institution conducts exit counseling. Two questions added concerning dispensation of final term borrowers (graduated or withdrew). Question added inquiring about cumulative debt for final term borrowers.

Ability to Benefit Experiment - The only change to this experiment involves inquiring of respondents if they are providing data for the entire student population, or only a sample.

We hope that the new reporting deadline allows you adequate time to complete the report templates and we apologize for any inconvenience while we attempt to improve our systems. We are working to get the templates available to you by early December for the February submission date. We will notify you as soon as the improved report templates are accessible for you to download.

Thanks.

Jackie Bannister